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President's Report for Volume 47

As the California Botanical Society's program year draws to a close, I have the pleasure of reviewing this year's accomplishments and activities. I also take this opportunity to thank the officers and council members for their dedicated efforts to keep the Society a vital force in west American botany. On behalf of the Society, I offer special thanks to Editor Kristina Schierenbeck for her continuing progress toward bringing *Madroño* back onto publication schedule and elevating further the stature of the journal. I am delighted to announce that Kristina has very generously agreed to extend her invaluable service as Editor of *Madroño* for a fourth year, through Volume 48. We are now searching for a new Editor of *Madroño,* for Volumes 49–51, and I encourage an aspiring editor to contact me or Kristina soon so that we can begin planning for a smooth transition.

Incoming First Vice-President Rodney Myatt helped the Society off to a strong start in fall 2000 by organizing an outstanding slate of speakers for our monthly meetings at U.C. Berkeley. We heard excellent presentations by John Battles, Chris Brinegar, Tina Carlsen, Susan Harrison, Dan Norris, Dan Potter, and Maureen Stanton on a wide range of botanical subjects, each followed by a post-seminar reception in the University and Jepson Herbaria. Many thanks to Rodney for his excellent planning and to our graduate student representative, Kirsten Johannes, for faithfully coordinating the invitations and receptions for each of our monthly meetings during the past year.

On 17 Feb 2001, the Society held one of its most important functions, the biennial graduate student scientific meeting, in conjunction with the annual banquet. The two events were held this year on the campus of the California State University at Chico. The graduate student meeting, organized by Chico graduate student representative Leah Mahan and CBS graduate student representative Kirsten Johannes, was by all accounts a great success, and both of these hard-working students deserve thanks and congratulations. Scientific papers on proposed, ongoing, and completed botanical research were presented throughout the morning and afternoon by 35 student speakers from within and outside California. Graduate student research is responsible for much of what we know about west American botany and I highly recommend regularly attending this highly educational event.

Second Vice-President Rob Schlising did an excellent job of hosting the Society's well-attended 2000–2001 annual banquet. Past President Wayne Ferren graciously stepped in to officiate over the evening's events while I was fighting off a flu in Berkeley (thank you, Rob and Wayne!). Attendees of this year's annual banquet were treated to an after-dinner lecture by Professor Emeritus Arthur Kruckeberg (University of Washington), the premier authority on serpentine endemism in plants, on the role of geology in molding the California flora. On behalf of the Society, I thank Dr. Kruckeberg for making this year's banquet such a special and memorable occasion.

A priority of the Council during the past year has been to elevate visibility and membership of the Society and, especially, to increase circulation of *Madroño* and citation of articles therein. Inclusion of *Madroño* in BIOSIS has been a positive step toward increasing article citation and we are actively pursuing incorporation of *Madroño* into other on-line databases. Thanks to incoming Society webmasters Curtis Clark and John LaDuke, the California Botanical Society now has an active and attractive web-site (www.calbotsoc.org), which will soon include abstracts of *Madroño* articles (beginning with Volume 48) and should help to alert more botanists to the value of *Madroño* and membership in CBS. Recording Secretary Dean Kelch spearheaded a membership drive during the past year that resulted in wide dissemination of information about the Society (and *Madroño* in particular) to academic and agency plant scientists throughout the West. I thank Dean and the other members of the Council for their important help in the membership drive. I ask all members of the Society to help promote our membership by encouraging your non-member collegues to join us.

Two hard-working members of the Council that deserve special thanks for their efforts to ensure continuity of the Society's membership and general maintenance of the Society's finances are incoming Treasurer Roy Buck and Corresponding Secretary Susan Bainbridge. Thanks in part to Roy's and Sue's conscientiousness, the Society's membership base is growing. I also thank Council members Diane Elam, Jim Shevock, and Bian Tan for their thoughtful contributions toward helping to chart the future of the Society and Recording Secretary Dean Kelch for reliably keeping minutes of our monthly Council meetings.

Of course, none of our activities would be possible without the contributions of the members of the California Botanical Society. On behalf of the Council, I thank each of you for your critical support of the Society's important goals and look forward to your participation in our new program year!

—Bruce G. Baldwin. July 2001.